GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1451
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Funds to Women Farmers
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government allocates a fixed amount/fund to women farmers to ensure the participation of women in all its schemes and programmes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government has taken any special steps to make women co-operatives robust and effective during the last two years and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Yes, Madam. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, as a part of its mainstreaming efforts ensures flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit of women farmers under its various beneficiary oriented schemes. The guidelines of schemes namely Support to State Extension programmes for Extension Reforms; National Food Security Mission; National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm; National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture; Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material; Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture stipulate that States and other Implementing Agencies are required to incur at least 30% expenditure on Women.

(b): Yes, Madam. In consonance with the Government Policy, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) encourages women cooperatives to avail financial assistance under its various schemes. A large number of women members are involved in cooperatives dealing with fruits & vegetables, Integrated Cooperative Development (ICD) Projects- sugarcane processing, consumer stores, handloom, power loom, spinning & sericulture activities etc. The cooperatives exclusively promoted by women are covered under Weaker Section Programme for the purpose of availing subsidy under Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation.

To promote women's active participation in the governance in cooperatives, NCDC has also been organizing training programmes for Women Directors of Cooperative Societies.

Continueâ€¦2/-

The details of assistance sanctioned & released in 2016-17 and 2015-16 exclusively to Women Cooperatives are as under:

2016-17

? Against sanctioned assistance of Rs.552.70 crore to 14 units, NCDC has released Rs. 554.89 crore for the projects sanctioned to women cooperatives.

2015-16

? Against sanctioned assistance of Rs 2.04 crore, NCDC has released Rs.3.55 crore to Integrated Cooperative Development (ICD) projects.

A National Workshop on "Strengthening Women Cooperatives" was conducted jointly by the NCDC and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in March 2017 which was attended by approximately 200 women cooperators representing most of the States/Union Territories in the country.

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